

# Earth First!

**ACTION UPDATE (UK)**

Autumn Equinox '91.

## **WORLDWIDE RAINFOREST PROTESTS INTENSIFY!**

As the tribal people of Sarawak continued their brave struggle for their rainforest homelands, activists around the world joined them in solidarity actions to draw attention to the rape of the forests. In 7 western countries and in Sarawak itself western people expressed outrage at the rainforest destruction and human rights abuses in Sarawak. See Inside.

Swiss activist Bruno Manser, who lived with the Penan for 7 years, climbs a lamp post to witness the hot air and inactivity at the G7 conference.



## **CARMAGEDDON**

Carmageddon is here now! That's the message that a new EFI campaign will be sending out.

Presently there are 19 million cars in Britain with a predicted 35 million by the year 2025. With this kind of increase in car use, roads and pollution an uncompromising BAN THE CAR message is clearly needed.

It is in the shadow of successful campaigns such as those calling for lead free petrol and catalytic converters that existing anti-car campaigns now run. Both campaigns are seriously flawed when side effects are considered and have enabled the motor industry to launch the fallacies of the 'green car' and 'responsible motorist'.

Carmageddon aims to expose the whole car cycle including production, oil use, road building and the car's effect on humans, other species and the environment.

The time for compromise has past. The car culture is destroying the Earth, either the car goes or the Earth goes. There's plenty of targets for both lone EFiers and groups, so !!!

For more information contact:  
Jason Torrance.  
N London EFI!



## **HELP NEEDED WITH EF! ROADSHOWS.**

Two roadshows are planned for the coming months:

**NOV/DEC-** First UK roadshow to promote the misguided ideas and aims of Earth First! to those who have been lucky enough to escape them until now. Dana Lyons, American EFI musician and activist will join us as we tour strengthening the very tenuous links in the UK EFI network.

**JAN/FEB -** European world forest roadshow. EFiers from around the world will gather in UK for the first leg of the roadshow which aims to educate, agitate, aggravate and inebriate Europeans everywhere. Featuring any American EFI soulmates brave enough to join us.

**WE URGENTLY NEED CASH, VENUES, SUPPORT BANDS  
AND LOCAL ORGANISERS.** Contact the London office for details

# SOS SARAWAK!

The rainforests of Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, are considered by biologists to be the oldest and most biologically diverse in the world. Currently they are being destroyed at the fastest rate in the world for the western world's greed. On June 25th this year as international activists arrived in Sarawak to "interfere in the internal politics" the Penan, Kelabit, Kayan, Bukitlan and Iban people resumed blockades, for which many have been imprisoned in the past.

Of the four blockades known to have been in operation this summer, two are still going strong at Long Ajeng and Sungai Tatau. The other two at Long Napir and Belaga have been dismantled and the male participants arrested. The desperate struggle of the indigenous people is similar to those going on all around the world; as the industrial megamachine steams forward the people and the forests of Sarawak are being destroyed in the name of "progress" and "development".

## WORLDWIDE PROTESTS

I was part of an international action at Kuala Baram, Sarawak on July 5th by Earth First!, Robin Wood (Germany) and Society for threatened peoples (Switzerland), which succeeded in occupying three loaded timber barges for 9 hours. I, with seven other activists from UK, Germany, Sweden, U.S.A and Australia were eventually sentenced to 2 months imprisonment. We were branded "imperialists" by the Malaysian Prime Minister, refused contact with a solicitor or embassy for 10 days and eventually deported to Singapore. Malaysia, which has a bad human rights record and wishes to become fully "developed" by 2020, has been sufficiently embarrassed to announce that it will not attend the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.

Activists around the world have been carrying out actions in solidarity with the tribal blockades. Since the 3rd July there have been actions in UK, Germany, France, Holland, USA, Australia, New Zealand and an international action in Sarawak.

Four actions took place in London between the 3rd and the 25th June, with Earth First! joining forces with the London Rainforest Action Group and the Singaporean and Malaysian British Association.

Five activists were arrested outside of the Japanese embassy on the 3rd June after activists scaled trees opposite the embassy to hang a 30ft banner which read 'BAN JAPAN FROM RAINFOREST'. Activists were arrested after several chained themselves to the embassy and others refused to move.

Activists were joined by Swiss activist Bruno Manser and David Bellamy at protests during the G7 economic summit.



A banner is hung from a loaded timber barge in Sarawak.



Arrested. Ouch!

### PENAN DAY - OCTOBER 7th

To build upon the pressure and energy created by the worldwide protests in July, October 7th has been declared Penan day. The Penan and other tribes have asked for help, we are their last hope, we must not let them down. For details of activities in this country contact me (Jake Burbridge) at the London Office.

# B&Quit!

B&Q, probably Britain's most prominent tropical hardwood retailer has been under fire from Rainforest Action groups and Earth First! groups around the country. Since groups have been picketing local stores in protest at the sale of tropical hardwood.

B&Q say they will stop selling unsustainable timber from 1995. Why then? Because 1995 is the deadline suggested by WWF. WWF probably picked that date because it gives the tropical hardwood trade exactly half the time for reform suggested by the trade's own body, the ITTO. In other words, it's a completely arbitrary date. Still, from B&Q's point of view, it's a nice long way away. And now they've got an answer to all those inconvenient accusations about destroying rainforest. At least, they think they have.

Needless to say WWF are terrifically pleased that B&Q is going to destroy the world for another 4 years. They say it is "extremely rewarding to see a company taking such a responsible stance on the environment".

Of course there is one sustainable timber deadline which is not arbitrary. EFi's executive elitist announcement making officer set this one some time ago, as a deadline for all action about everything. Get your copy of Ecodefense quick or you'll miss it!

Tim Rickman.  
London Rainforest Action Group.

## S.E London EFi! prepares to join the fight for Oxleas Wood.

After a long, hard struggle by existing groups, the executioners axe is still poised over Oxleas Wood. Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and more importantly as one of the last significant fragments of ancient woodland within inner London.

Why is Oxleas wood being destroyed? To build a road of course. The East London River Crossing (ELRC) is the dreamchild of the Department of Transport who intend to build a road through Oxleas wood, through Greenwich and across the Thames. This completely unnecessary abomination has been condemned by the local council and fought at every step by People Against the River Crossing (PARC), an umbrella group of several groups.

EFi! is joining with existing groups in preparation for resistance to the roadbuilding. Extensive Civil disobedience the like of which has never been seen in Britain before is being planned at present, with a little help from our friends in Oz and the U.S.

The matter is in the hands of the European parliament at present, so let's not get too enthusiastic with those kryptonite locks just yet.

Adrian Croxley  
S.E London EFi!

## Mid Somerset EFi! defends Penn Wood.

On the 22nd June we joined with Class War and a few locals at a trespass at Penn Wood, near Coker in Somerset. The action was organised by CW who were angry at the owner of the land, a banker from London, who had refused locals entry to the wood.

We ignored the uproar by environment groups who refused to participate as they say CW as too violent. We knew the wood was at stake and had heard that that the owner was privately considering using the land for chalet development. So something had to be done!

The action numbered nearly 80, including many from CW, a few locals and of course our lot. The press coverage was good which also brought a large police presence. A few of us were asked to make a speech, and I said a few words on behalf of EFi!, basically promising more action and challenging the other eco - groups to stop being yellow and do something. However, proceedings were quiet and everyone was allowed to trespass.

Since the action the wood has once again been opened. Working from this a Community Eco - Defence Network has been set up to protect the whole biotic community from greedy developers.

Davey Garland  
Mid Somerset EFi!



## BOYCOTT HEALTH FOOD

Mid Somerset EFi have produced a news sheet which looks at health food. The news sheet lists the health food companies involved in nasty dealings, there's quite a few surprises amongst them.

Animal rights groups are helping with distribution, but they'd love some more EFlers giving them a hand.

News sheets available from MSEF!

## COURT INJUNCTION STOPS EFi! MIDSUMMER GATHERING

Well here's the explanation for all of you that thought about turning up but heard that it was cancelled, and especially to those of you that turned up and had to go home again.

Unfortunately, the organisers were under the impression that we live in a country that upholds its own laws to protect freedom and democracy; how wrong they were. The authorities had managed to convince the landowner, who is deaf and in his seventies, that he would be fined £20,000 and spend up to 2 years in prison if he didn't withdraw his permission; they had no legal leg to stand on. Don't you just feel so safe at night with people like these in positions of power?? A court injunction killed the chance of it happening on another site. It rained all weekend anyway.

## VERY URGENT, UNUSUALLY DISGUSTING PLEA FOR MONEY

*Earth First! is an international movement dedicated to preserving natural areas and fighting the forces of industrialism. We employ no one and have, so far avoided the bureaucracy and elitism so prevalent in other green groups. Earth First! is about radical action and no-compromise grassroots campaigning. Although we don't have the overheads of other groups, we still need cash, mexican pesos or any other ecologically friendly tradeable commodity. We are very short of money at present for campaigns both locally, nationally, internationally and intergalactically. But we'd rather have your body! Earth First! is on the front lines of the battle for life on Earth and EFi NEEDS YOU! Please get involved with a local group or set one up but if you'd rather soothe your conscience and send us some cash we wont mind. Send cheques and postal orders payable to 'Earth First' to N London EFi*

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